

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 DHA-02 ORM-02 EUR-12

/095 W

-----026367 211321Z /46

R 211218Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4355

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2952

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS LE

SUBJ: LEBANESE INTERNAL SITUATION: CONVERSATION WITH KUWAITI
AMBASSADOR

1. HAD LONG DISCUSSION LEBANESE SITUATION DURING CALL ON
KUWAITI AMBASSADOR AL-BUAYJAN MORNING JUNE 20. AFTER SOLICITING
MY OWN VIEWS ON INTERNAL SITUATION, HE SAID HE HAD BEEN CONCERNED
BY FACT THAT COUNTRY WAS ON DEAD CENTER AS RESULT CAIRO ACCORD
IMPASSE AND HE DEPLOYING CONTINUING EFFORTS TO DO SOMETHING
ABOUT IT. BRIEFLY, HE SAID IMPLEMENTATION CAIRO ACCORD ON BASIS
SARKIS INTERPRETATION OF IT WAS NON-STARTER BECAUSE, ALTHOUGH
PALESTINIANS WERE NOW WILLING ACCEPT 7 PER THOUSAND LIMITATION,
THEY UNWILLING TO GIVE UP THEIR ARMS AND ENTRUST DEFENSE OF CAMPS
TO SYRIANS AND LEBANESE. WAY HAD TO BE FOUND TO DEFUSE POLITICAL
QUARREL FIRST.

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2. HE PERSONALLY WAS ENCOURAGING FORMATION OF WIDE NATIONAL
FRONT AS FIRST STEP IN CREATING CLIMATE OF COOPERATION. SAAB
SALAM HAD REFUSED JOIN BECAUSE "WIDE FRONT" WOULD MEAN INVOLVE-
MENT OF COMMUNISTS. HE HAD CONVINCED RELUCTANT RASHID KARAME
THAT HE SHOULD PARTICIPATE AND HAD ARGUED THAT COMMUNISTS COULD
BE REPRESENTED EITHER THROUGH MEMBERSHIP IN JUMBLATT'S NATIONAL

MOVEMENT OR SYMBOLIC PARTICIPATION WITHOUT POWER. THE COMMUNISTS DID NOT REPRESENT IMPORTANT POWER GROUP IN LEBANON, AND ANYWAY IT BETTER TO HAVE THEM IN ORGANIZATION THAN TRYING TO WRECK IT FROM OUTSIDE. (THIS SEEMS A LITTLE TOO FACILE. COMMUNISTS HAVE SIGNIFICANT POWER BASE IN SOUTH.) HE HAD ALSO HAD CONTACT WITH PHALANGE ON SUBJECT AND FOUND THEM WILLING TO CONSIDER IDEA AND ENGAGE IN CONTACTS, ALTHOUGH THEIR CONCEPTION OF CONFESSIONAL VERSUS SECULAR STATE WAS PROBLEM.

3. FOR OUR INFORMATION ALONE, HE HAD ALSO ARRANGED SERIES OF CONTACTS BETWEEN PHALANGE AND PALESTINIANS (HANI HASSAN) TO DISCUSS SOUTH. THESE CONTACTS HAD LED TO TENTATIVE UNDERSTANDING ON DETENTE IN AREA. IT HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN FINAL FORM, HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF INOPPORTUNE LEAK IN LOCAL PRESS WHICH HAD FRIGHTENED OFF PALESTINIANS. HE BELIEVED THAT THIS HAD BEEN SUBJECT OF DISCUSSION BETWEEN HANI HASSAN AND PRESIDENT SARKIS NIGHT OF JUNE 18. HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER AGREEMENT WOULD COME TO FRUITION, BUT HE THOUGHT THERE WAS OPPORTUNITY FOR PROGRESS.

4. I ASKED AL-BUAYJAN ABOUT KUWAITI INTENTIONS REGARDING AID TO LEBANON. HE SAID KUWAITIS WOULD GIVE AID FOR WORTHWHILE PROJECTS. THEY THOUGHT IT WAS TOO EARLY, HOWEVER, TO CONSIDER GIVING MASSIVE AID TO PRIVATE SECTOR AS PROPOSED BY LEBANESE. IN FIRST PLACE, THERE WAS PLENTY OF MONEY IN PRIVATE HANDS ALREADY, AND IT WAS NOT BEING INVESTED BECAUSE OF POLITICAL UNCERTAINTIES. KUWAIT HAD SAME RESERVATIONS THAT PRIVATE SECTOR DID. ONCE
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POLITICAL UNCERTAINTIES RESOLVED, THEY WOULD PUT IN MONEY, BUT THEY WOULD NOT PUT IT IN PRIVATE SECTOR OR DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL. THEY WOULD LEND IT TO GOV TO LEND TO BUSINESS.

5. COMMENT: BUAYJAN GIVES CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE TO HIS OWN ROLE IN ARRANGING NATIONAL CONCILIATION. WE DO NOT KNOW HOW MUCH CREDIT HE SHOULD GET. PHALANGE-PALESTINIAN CONTACTS, FOR INSTANCE, ARE LONGSTANDING. WHILE HIS EFFORTS SOUND BLAMELESS (I TOLD HIM HIS INITIATIVES WERE DEVOID OF EVIL), HE ALSO SOUNDS OVERLY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT LOCAL COMMUNISTS AND ABOUT PROBLEMS OF ORGANIZING VIABLE NATIONAL FRONT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PALESTINIANS, AMBASSADORS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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From: BEIRUT
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Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2087559
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEBANESE INTERNAL SITUATION: CONVERSATION WITH KUWAITI AMBASSADOR
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, LE, KU, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7c5c6479-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009